

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 3, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 18, and 20 are amended, and claims 3 and 19 are cancelled. As a result, claims 1, 2, 4-18, and 20 are now pending in this application.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to due to various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to overcome this objection.

§102 and §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sholder (U.S. Patent No. 5,222,493). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sholder (U.S. Patent No. 5,222,493) in view of Hemming et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,871,512). Applicant believes that the amendments to claims 1 and 18 contained herein are sufficient to overcome the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 8-17.

Claims 3-6, 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has cancelled claim 3 and amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations formerly recited by claim 3. Applicant has cancelled claim 19 and amended claim 18 to incorporate the limitations formerly recited by claim 19.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (847) 432-7302 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

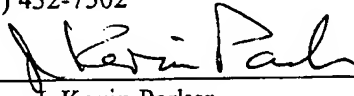
JULIO C. SPINELLI ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(847) 432-7302

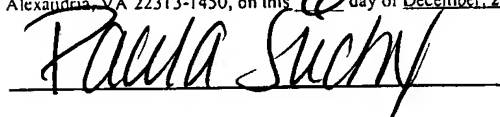
Date 12-6-04

By

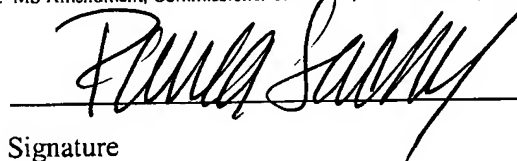


J. Kevin Parker
Reg. No. 33,024

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 6 day of December, 2004.



Name



Signature